



# Kent Environmental Council

July 2010

## Planning Under Way for KEC 40th Anniversary of Advocacy, Action

Please consider joining us in celebration of KEC's 40th year of advocacy and action! We are planning a dinner event at the Rusty Nail, KEC's first business recycler when KEC took over the city of Kent's Recycling Center in 1979. The gala event is set for October 16 at 6 p.m. The cost is about \$30 per person.

### The Second Generation Will Speak to KEC

As a special keynote speaker for this event, we have invited Kenneth Meade, son of KEC's long-time activist Ruth Meade (who died in 1999) and a well-established attorney who specializes in environmental law at a Washington, D.C., firm.

### Looking Back and Looking Forward

A Celebration Subcommittee has been preparing a time line to document the history of KEC from 1970 to 2010. It will be on display during the evening event.

Please share with us your memories of the experiences you have had as a member of KEC or as a participant in a KEC-sponsored activity. Send your recollections to Nancy Adams at [nbadams336@att.net](mailto:nbadams336@att.net) or to KEC, P.O. Box 395, Kent, OH 44240.

If you would like to receive a formal invitation to the celebration dinner, complete the reply form at <http://www.kentenvironment.org/40th%20Questionnaire.pdf>. Or call Walt or Nancy Adams at 330/673-6548.

## Crooked River Adventures Launches Canoes, Kayaks at Kent's Tannery Park

Kent State University's Department of Recreational Services has launched a canoe/kayak livery at Tannery Park on Stow Street in cooperation with Kent Parks and Recreation.

Trips are available to Brust Park in Stow and to Waterworks Park in Cuyahoga Falls. This service enhances one of KEC's long-time goals: increase public access to the Cuyahoga River so its natural beauty and improved water quality can be appreciated firsthand. This reporter took the trip on June 2 from the Tannery to

Waterworks Park with eight companions. A light drizzle was falling, but it was not enough to cause the livery manager to cancel the trip. Had an active thunderstorm been in the area or if a significant downpour had occurred, the trip would have been canceled.

This is a relatively calm section of the river, with a few riffles, and good for any beginning canoeist or kayaker. Children as young as 3 years old can occupy the canoe along with an adult.

See *LIVERY*, back.

## Summit Street Improvement Plans in Progress

A citizens' advisory committee is working with officials from the city of Kent, PARTA, and Kent State University on plans to implement improvements to East Summit Street between South Lincoln Street and Loop Road. Funding for long-needed enhancements is in hand, thanks to major federal support and contributions from the city and the university. Total funding is \$11,500,000.

See *STREET*, back.

## 40 Years . . . and Still Going Strong

Having now reached the age of discretion (at age 40), the Kent Environmental Council will again have a tent at the Kent Heritage Festival on Saturday, July 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

KEC's exhibit, expected to be at the south end of the downtown intersection of Main and Water streets, will feature a display of the environmental impact of selected popular foods and household items, including information about where they come from, how they get here, and what they cost in oil consumption and carbon footprint.

In addition, the booth will have highlights of KEC's accomplishments across four decades and a raffle of some ecologically informative and/or responsible materials and products.

# NEFCO, Other Area Groups Crafting Middle Cuyahoga River Watershed Plan

A watershed action plan for the Middle Cuyahoga River is under development. Area residents and NEFCO are spearheading the effort.

The covered area is from Kent to the Gorge Dam in Cuyahoga Falls. Problems being addressed include storm-water runoff, urban flooding, algae growth in reservoirs, nutrients and sediment, large areas of impervious surfaces, and channelized streams. Options to reduce storm-water runoff include rain gardens,

rain barrels, bioswayles and the use of pervious pavement.

The group visited an example near Lion's Park on 7th Street in Cuyahoga Falls where four houses subject to repeated flooding were removed with Federal Emergency Management Agency money. A bowl-shaped area was constructed in the center of the block, with good drainage and attractive landscaping. Nearby houses have not been flooded in two years and should have increased property values.

## Cuyahoga River, Brecksville Dam Focus of Remedial Action Plan

Dam modification or removal has been so successful in Kent and Munroe Falls at restoring water quality in the Cuyahoga River that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is continuing to focus on dams in the lower Cuyahoga. Work is under way on plans for the removal of the Brecksville Dam (S.R. 82).

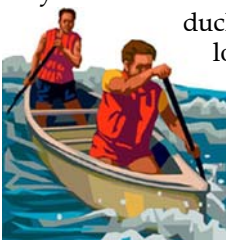
The Ohio EPA designated the lower Cuyahoga as an area of concern—up to the Gorge Dam in Cuyahoga Falls—in 1988 and established the Cuyahoga River remedial action

plan (RAP) to address the problems. The RAP Coordinating Committee met on May 25 and approved the request to expand the area of concern to include Ohio Edison's Gorge Dam and the two small dams in Cuyahoga Falls. This designation would make the sites eligible for federal funding under the Great Lakes Legacy Act. Sediment behind the Ohio Edison dam is being tested and is only moderately contaminated. The next step is the Ohio EPA's review and approval of the expanded area of concern.

### LIVERY

*Continued from front*

The trip affords a good opportunity for bird-watching. We saw many ducks, turtles, swallows, finches and a blue heron—along with two dogs eager to follow our progress from the bank. There are overhanging trees to avoid and, at busier times, people fishing from the bank. The trip allows one to see the restored river channel in Munroe Falls now



that the dam there has been removed.

KSU Recreational Services emphasizes safety and courtesy with a brief presentation to boaters before launch, including an emphasis on the leave-no-trace philosophy.

The livery is open through October, and other nearby trips offered by the Adventure Center, are open to the community. Call 330/541-7467 or go to <http://www-new.kent.edu/crookedriver/index.cfm> for cost and availability. The livery is set up Friday through Sunday at Tannery Park and by reservation during the week with 24 hours' notice.

### Attention: Environmental Advocates!

KEC invites you to visit our Web site at [www.kentenvironment.org](http://www.kentenvironment.org). Be sure to click on these tabs:

- Calendar - for information on local environmental events
- What's New - for KEC focus group activities
- Legacy of Learning - for reports on 2008 grant projects
- Eco-Tips - for ways to reduce your carbon footprint, and more

Consider becoming a member of KEC or renew your membership (if REN appears on your mailing label) at one of the following levels:

- Sustaining - \$45
- Family - \$35
- Individual - \$25
- Golden Buckeye - \$15
- Student - \$10

Send your check made payable to Kent Environmental Council to KEC, P.O. Box 395, Kent, OH 44240. Print the category of membership you have selected on the memo line.



**Together, we can make a difference!**

### STREET

*Continued from front*

The committee is expressing neighborhood and community concerns as it helps guide the planning process. City engineer Jim Bowling chairs the committee. A KEC representative also is a member. The committee meets through August. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the PARTA office on Summit Street and begin at 7 p.m. The meetings are open to the public.

### SAVE THE DATE . . .

Saturday, September 25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
River Cleanup Sponsored by KSU's  
Adventure Center

Great way to connect with college students  
and young families on a local service project